

# Fire Prevention in Welding and Cutting Operations.





- **Title 8**
- **Subchapter 7**
- **Group 10**
- **Article 88**
- **§ 4848**

The employer shall establish a fire prevention and suppression procedure whenever any of the operations and processes covered by Sections 4794(a) and 4850(a) are conducted on its property. The employer shall issue and implement instructions on fire prevention and suppression procedures based upon the requirements contained in American National Standards Institute (ANSI/ASC) Z49.1-94, Safety In Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes, Chapters 3 and 6 and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 51B-2009, Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work, Chapters 3-7, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

# What Does This Mean to US?



## In Short:

Requirements of covering combustible materials that cannot be relocated prior to welding have been well defined by a regulating agency (OSHA).

For vertical applications an “**approved**” curtain must be used

For horizontal applications an “**approved**” blanket must be used

For extreme heat directly above a heat source, an “**approved**” pad must be used.

§3206 in the same standard identifies the word “approved” to mean approved from a Nationally Recognized Testing laboratory (NRTL). Examples of these are Factory Mutual, Underwriter Laboratory etc.

# How Does This Change What WE Do?



- We are doing a very good job when it comes to properly covering combustible sources in preparation for welding and cutting. We want to continue this success.
- The only change required is the use of “approved” welding curtain, welding blanket and welding pad.



# What's Wrong With The Stuff We Are Using Now?



- The material the refinery has used (up to now) does not have an approval from a NRTL.
- Currently, the material that is “approved” has the “approved stamp written every 3 or 4 feet on the rolls. To assure the correct material is being used and the lettering cannot be seen on the sample, simply look for the original source the material is from and assure the correct lettering is stamped on it.
- This standard applies to all company and contract work.

# Q&A and discussion



- Can I use Blanket material for Curtain type coverage?

Yes, but it is more expensive than the curtain material.

- Can I use Curtain material for Blanket type coverage?

NO!! The Curtain material is not as thick as the blanket material and will not contain the heat required and tested for.

Discussion: While on a field walk, you notice that a curtain material being used doesn't have the "Approved Curtain" stamp. What actions would you take if you noticed that unapproved material was still being used in our Refinery?

How would you discuss the hazards with the people involved?